

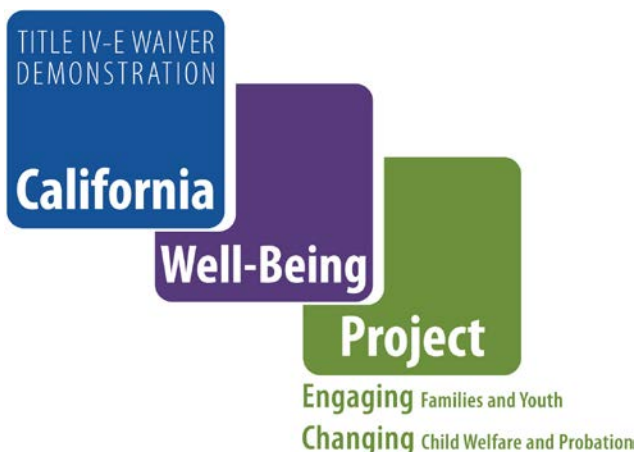


TITLE IV-E CALIFORNIA WELL-BEING PROJECT

Q2 (January - March 2015) Activities

Overview: Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Program

A Pathway to State and National Reform to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes



California is one of [30 states and/or jurisdictions](#) participating in the [Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Program](#). Participation in the Program provides states with an opportunity to use federal funds more flexibly in order to test innovative approaches to improve outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being. The Waiver Program is an important step to developing an evidence base to inform county practice, state policy as well as the national discussion on [federal child welfare finance reform](#).

The "Title IV-E California Well-Being Project" (the Project) is the name for California's participation in the national Waiver Program. There are [nine counties](#) targeting children and youth ages 0 - 17 who are in, or are at risk of being in, out-of-home care. The Project focuses on two core strategies:

- **Prevention:** [Wraparound](#) for probation youth exhibiting delinquency risk factors that put them at risk of entering foster care.
- **Family Centered Practice:** [Safety Organized Practice](#) to further implement and enhance the Core Practice Model for child welfare.

We invite you to learn more, and stay current on implementation updates, by exploring [the California Well-Being Project](#) web page.

Actions and Updates

Several foundational activities were advanced this quarter. Highlights include:

- **State Implementation:** The [Initial Development and Implementation Report](#) (IDIR), the core report that details the Project's strategy, implementation plans and projected outcomes, was updated and sent to the federal Child Welfare Demonstration agency on March 30, 2015.
- **County Implementation:** CDSS provided the following county supports:
 - Convened all implementing county Probation representatives to discuss the target population and outcome measurements for the Wraparound evaluation component.
 - Convened all implementing county Child Welfare representatives to finalize the SOP/CPM framework.
- **Project Management:** Internal and cross-county communications were advanced by:
 - Continuing to meet on a monthly basis to discuss the Work Breakdown Schedule and project updates, and to hold information sessions with internal team members and partners.
 - Publishing the quarterly newsletter, writing contributions to the [California Wraparound Connections publication](#), and updating [the Project's web page](#) in Child's World.
- **Evaluation:** Important progress was made towards hiring an external evaluator for the Project:
 - CDSS finalized the Request for Proposal (RFP) through an extensive internal review, including input from contracts.
 - CDSS formed an Evaluation Steering Committee comprised of county and Casey Family Partnership representatives.

Implementation Highlight

A significant implementation milestone was achieved this quarter as all nine implementing counties agreed to the core practices and outcomes that will be implemented, evaluated and reported through the Project. Agreement to these practices and outcomes is essential for finalizing and gaining federal approval of California's IDIR, and setting the foundation for evaluating impact and identifying best-practices.

The components for each of the two focus areas are:

- **Safety Organized Practice/Core Practice Model**
 - Engaging Families Through Relationships
 - Promoting Safety Through Assessment
 - Safety Driven Service and Support Planning and Implementation
 - Monitoring and Adapting
 - Transitions and After Care Planning

Learn more about the core practices and outcomes for each component [here](#).

- **Wraparound**
 - Engagement and Team Preparation
 - Initial Plan Development
 - Implementation
 - Transition

Learn more about the core practices and outcomes for each component [here](#).

County Corner

San Diego County is Successfully 'Steering' Their Way Through Waiver Implementation

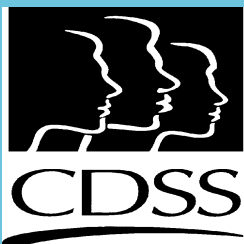
San Diego County has been working to implement a Safety Organized Practice (SOP) framework since 2010, so signing on to participate in the Title IV-E Waiver Program was a natural next step.

"Although we are five years into implementing a SOP model, our approach prior to the Waiver Program could best be described as 'steady but slow.' Participating in the Waiver has strengthened our commitment, focused our work, and afforded us the resources to really make it happen," said Kim Giardina, Child Welfare Program Manager, San Diego Health and Human Services.

One of the elements the team believes will be foundational in their Waiver success is the Steering Committee. Originally developed and tested with strong results with their Safety Enhanced Together, a framework that advances San Diego County's vision that every child will grow up safe and nurtured, the team was excited to build and engage a new Steering Committee to guide their Waiver work for the next five years. The Steering Committee consists of thirty members at all levels of staff.

When we asked Kim what have been her biggest implementation learnings, she quickly commented, "If we could hit the reset button on implementation, we would focus more time, right up-front, on training and supporting our supervisors and managers in the implementation of SOP, and better equipping them to communicate and champion SOP with their workers."

San Diego County invites you to learn more by contacting Corey Kissel at Corey.Kissel@sdcounty.ca.gov



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